

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 038157
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038157

EXDIS FOR PRATT , MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, VM

SUBJECT: US/VN RELATIONS: VIETNAMESE VISIT TO CENTRAL
IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY

REF: PARIS 04341

1. EMBASSY SHOULD PASS FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO DO THANH:

2. BEGIN TEXT OF ORAL MESSAGE: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS
RECEIVED THE SRV MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' MESSAGE,
WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED THROUGH OUR PARIS EMBASSIES ON
FEBRUARY 13, 1978, INFORMING US THAT VIETNAM CANNOT SEND A
GROUP OF EXPERTS TO VISIT THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORA-
CONFIDENTIAL

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TORY IN HONOLULU DURING THE FIRST TRIMESTER OF THIS YEAR.
WE DO NOT PLAN TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION THE SUBJECT OF A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, PROVIDED THE FOLLOW-
ING BRIEFING PAPER TO THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, SHOULD HE BE
ASKED BY THE PRESS TO COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE:

QUESTION: DURING THE DECEMBER 19-20 ROUND OF TALKS IN PARIS,
THE VIETNAMESE ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION TO SEND A GROUP OF

THEIR MIA EXPERTS TO VISIT THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION

LABORATORY AND JOINT CASUALTY CENTER IN HAWAII. GIVEN THE
EVENTS PROMPTING AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI'S DEPARTURE, DO
YOU KNOW IF THIS VISIT IS STILL ON?

ANSWER: THE VIETNAMESE HAVE INFORMED US, THROUGH OUR
LIAISON ARRANGEMENT IN PARIS, THAT THEIR EXPERTS WILL NOT
VISIT HAWAII DURING THE FIRST THIRD OF THIS YEAR. WE HOPE
THE VISIT CAN BE RESCHEDULED FOR SOME TIME LATER THIS
YEAR.

QUESTION: DID THE VIETNAMESE GIVE ANY REASON? DID THEY
SAY AMBASSADOR THI'S DEPARTURE CAUSED THE CANCELLATION?

ANSWER: I CANNOT GO INTO THE CONTENTS OF THEIR MESSAGE.
I WOULD REITERATE, HOWEVER, THAT WE CONSIDER THE
ACCOUNTING OF OUR MIA'S TO BE A HUMANITARIAN MATTER, AND
THAT WE HOPE A VISIT TO HAWAII CAN BE RESCHEDULED
SOON.

END GUIDANCE TEXT. END TEXT OF ORAL MESSAGE.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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